A popular figure of Delhi, Shri Kalka Das was instrumental in several development works in the National Capital. A dedicated political and social worker, Shri Kalka Das worked hard for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society. He was associated with several political and social organisations. He also wrote a book entitled 'Meenakshi Puram'.

Shri Kalka Das passed away in New Delhi on 27 September, 1996 at the age of 58 years.

Shri Saeed Murtaza was a member of Sixth Lok Sabha representing Muzaffarnagar Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1977-79.

Earlier, he was a member of the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha in 1969 and was a Minister in the State Government.

An active social and political worker, he had served as President of the Town Panchayat for 35 years continuously.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Murtaza took keen interest in the Proceedings of the House. He also served as a member of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

Shri Saeed Murtaza passed away on 30 September, 1996 at Muzaffarnagar at the age of 90 years.

Shri Ansar Harvani was a member of Second Lok Sabha representing Fatehpur Parliamentary constituency and Third Lok Sabha representing Bisauli Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1957-62 and 1962-67 respectively.

He made a valuable contribution to the proceedings of the House. Shri Harvani served as a member of the Estimates Committee during 1961-62.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Harvani actively participated in 'Quit India Movement' and suffered imprisonment for several years.

A promoter of healthy journalism, Shri Harvani was Chief Reporter in *The National Herald* and special representative of *the Amrit Bazar Patrika*.

He was associated with several organisations.

Shri Ansar Harvani passed away on 28 October, 1996 at New Delhi at the age of 80 years.

Shri Halimuddin Ahmed was a member of Sixth Lok Sabha representing Kishanganj Parliamentary constituency of Bihar during 1977-79.

Shri Ahmed had also been a member of Bihar Legislative Assembly during 1985-90.

An advocate by profession, Shri Ahmed was an active social and political worker. He was associated with a number of social organisations.

Shri Ahmed took keen interest in the proceedings of the House. He served as a member of the Committee of Privileges.

Shri Halimuddin Ahmed passed away at Araria on 14 November, 1996 at the age of 75 years.

I would now also like to express my heartfelt and profound sorrow over two recent tragic incidents - cyclonic havoc in Andhra Pradesh and air mishap. The recent unprecedented cyclonic floods in Andhra Pradesh barely a few days before the festival of lights, left in its wake loss of several lives and property.

The other disaster relates to the mid-air collision of an aircraft of the Saudi Arabian Airlines with that of Kazhak Airlines on Tuesday, the 12th November, 1996, over Charkhi Dadri, in Haryana causing the death of passengers and crew members of both the airlines. Our hearts go out to the victims and kith and kin of the deceased.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and of those who died due to the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh and the air accident and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.14 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 21st November, 1996 at 11 A.M.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir

'1. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :
SHRI E. AHAMED :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of incidents of explosion and police firing which took place in Jammu and Kashmir till date since the elections to the State Assembly were held;

(b) the number of civilians and security personnel - killed by the militants in the State during the last three months;

(c) the number of militants killed and arrested in Jammu and Kashmir during the period;

(d) the measures taken by the Union Government to provide additional help to the Jammu and Kashmir Government to bring normalcy in the State; and

(e) the response of the Union Government regarding more autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) According to the available

information, there were 75 incidents of explosions and 67 incidents of firing between the militants and the security forces during the period after elections till 31 October, 1996.

(b) 332 civilians and 63 Security Force personnel were killed in incidents of terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir during the period from 1.8.96 to 31.10.96.

(c) 350 militants were killed and 494 were apprehended during this period.

(d) The Union Government have been consistently taking all necessary measures to assist the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to bring about normalcy in the State. These *inter-alia* include deployment of Central Security Forces to aid and assist the State Government in the maintenance of law and order and internal security; provision of financial assistance to enable acceleration of economic and developmental activities in the State, including assistance to meet the extra expenditure of the State Government on security related matters; assistance in the creation of employment opportunities for the youth in the State; ensuring adequate and timely supply of essential commodities; maintenance and upgradation of communications; expansion of electronic media facilities, etc. The Government has also announced an economic package for the State including extension of the Railway line to Baramulla as a National Project, additional financial assistance to bridge the non plan resource gap, a debt relief scheme for small ventures, upgradation of Kargil Airfield and provision of weekly helicopter service to Kargil, and expeditious implementation of the Dul-Hasti power project in District Doda, etc.

(e) The Government is committed to maximum autonomy for the State of Jammu and Kashmir. However, it is not possible/feasible to give details about the same at this stage.

Employees of Rural Development Agencies

*2. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the manner in which the terms and service conditions of the employees working in the rural development agencies in various States have been fixed;

(b) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c). The District Rural Development Agencies are registered societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The DRDAs have their own by-laws for governance of the Society. The employees recruited by such agencies are the employees of the Society. Therefore, the Union Government have not issued any guidelines regarding the terms and conditions of the employees working in the DRDAs.

State Electricity Boards

3. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether many State Electricity Boards have suffered huge losses during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of last three years;

(c) whether the huge losses of State Electricity Boards and continuous power shortages in the country has deterred private participation and has also failed to attract foreign investment and technology in the power sector;

(d) if so, the steps contemplated to restructure State Electricity Boards to make them run efficiently;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to improve the power situation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Many State Electricity Boards have suffered huge losses during the last 3 years.

(b) The details of the losses during 1992-93 to 1994-95 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Despite substantial interest evinced by both domestic and foreign investors, poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) is one of the reasons affecting finalisation of security packages for some private sector power projects.

(d) Government has drawn the attention of the States towards the need to improve the performance of SEBs and the options available for restructuring and reform of SEBs. Orissa is the first State which has undergone a restructuring exercise and other State like UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, AP, Karnataka, Kerala etc. have shown interest in restructuring.

(e) and (f). Ministry of Power has drafted an Action Plan which, inter alia, emphasises higher allocation for early completion of public sector projects, expeditious completion of Public and Private Sector on-going schemes, renovation and modernisation of power plants in a time bound manner, encouragement of captive/co generation, private sector participation in distribution and restructuring and reforms of SEBs.